

May 9, 1975

conditions make us all concerned about expenditure. I assume the Budget Committee took that into consideration as they looked at various agencies and what they were trying to do. I believe that this would be foolhardy. I believe it would be an approach in the wrong direction. I believe that this is not the way to go. If legitimate programs should be cut, they ought to be considered on a one-to-one basis. If there's too much money in the University of Nebraska the necessary amendment should be up there. The justification for reducing that appropriation should be made. If there's too much money in the Department of Institutions that specific amendment should be made to reduce that appropriation, and the Legislature should be so informed as to why. I believe that this would be a real major, major destruction of a budgetary process of trying to provide needs in programs. Let the programs be justified themselves rather than a straight across the board increase, or the straight across the board decrease. I'd ask you to defeat the Bereuter amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Orval Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Bereuter, Mr. Speaker and fellow Senators. Senator Bereuter, a 3% cut will do one thing. It will let the people of this state know that we were going to give a 3% cut. In place of that 3% cut, before we gave that we gave a 27% increase. I was just talking to one of my constituents, a taxpayer. He says, "Orval, I haven't received an increase". I work for the rail road, Senator Syas, he works for the rail road. "I haven't received an increase in the last year". He says, "The cost of living has went up over 12 percent on me. Now" he says, "you're going to put a 27% increase, and you're spending it in this state." That will require a 27% increase in taxes. You come along and hypothetically you're going to give a 3% cut. When I offered you a 10% cut you were still having a 17% increase in spending. I don't care whether it's your school board, whether it's your town board, whether it's your county commissioners, or who it is. I hope Senator Frank Lewis is listening. If these schools cannot operate, and the Platteview School can't operate without an increase. I don't know where they're going to get their money. If they can't operate this state is going to come to a dead stop. It will come to a dead stop when these people get so damned sick of your taxing them that they quit. They'll quit paying it. That's when it will come to a stop. It'll come to a stop when you come along and print all the money you want and go. Go ahead and give this 3%. That's like giving to a postage stamp on three bucks. That's a postage stamp on \$3.

PRESIDENT: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, I would support this particular increase. I'm not sure it's going to go one way or the other. Senator Lewis talks about the fact that if you take a million and a half dollars off the state aid you're going to have to put it on property tax. That's certainly true. He just does not want to do that at all. He certainly